

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DODE-00 PA-01
USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 HA-05 /058 W
-----031765 180023Z /70
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4361
INFO ALL OECD CAPITALS

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DEPARTMENT PASS LABOR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, FR
SUBJECT: DECEMBER DECLINE IN FRENCH UNEMPLOYMENT

REF: PARIS 36533 (NOTAL)

1. IN DECEMBER FOR THE FOURTH SUCCESSIVE MONTH, THE
NUMBER OF REGISTERED UNEMPLOYED IN FRANCE DECLINED.
AT MONTH'S END THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE NUMBER
OF REGISTERED JOB SEEKERS WAS, ON A SEASONALLY-ADJUSTED
BASIS, 1,026,000 -- DOWN 29,000 FROM THE MONTH BEFORE.
(THE NUMBER OF RECORDED JOB OFFERS, HOWEVER, HAS ALSO
BEEN DECLINING.)

2. COINCIDENTAL WITH THIS DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN THE
SUCCESS CLAIMED BY THE NATIONAL EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATION
(PATRONAT) FOR ITS ROLE IN THE NATIONAL PACT FOR
EMPLOYMENT (SEE PARIS A-246 OF JUNE 27, 1977). THE
PATRONAT HAS STATED THAT IN 1977 SOME 475,000 JOB
OFFERS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WERE REGISTERED UNDER THE
PACT, AND 83 PERCENT OF THEM HAVE ALREADY BEEN FILLED.
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(A DETAILED REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF THE PACT WILL BE
SUBMITTED.)

3. SERIOUS CRITICS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES,
BOTH PARTISAN AND OTHERWISE, HAVE BEEN QUICK TO POINT
OUT THAT ALTHOUGH THE PACT FOR EMPLOYMENT APPARENTLY
HAS BEEN A TACTICAL SUCCESS, IN THE SENSE THAT THE

INFLUX OF 650,000 YOUNG PEOPLE INTO THE LABOR MARKET
IN THE AUTUMN OF 1977 DID NOT END IN DISASTER, THE
LONG TERM PROBLEM REMAINS TO BE RESOLVED. MEANWHILE,
ON THE POLEMICS LEVEL, ATTEMPTS CONTINUE TO TRY TO
PORTRAY THE DECLINE IN JOB SEEKERS AS A RESULT OF
DELIBERATE GOVERNMENT MANIPULATION OF THE STATISTICS.
APPARENTLY, THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SEASONAL ADJUST-
MENT FACTOR CONTINUES TO ELUDE THE MEDIA AND MOST
PUBLIC COMMENTATORS.
HARTMAN

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